

BURNT AT THE STAKE

Thomas Watts was one of almost eighty Essex men and women who were burned at the stake in the reign of Mary Tudor for refusing to recant their Protestant beliefs. A full account of Thomas Watts' martyrdom is provided in John Foxe's Book of Martyrs, more correctly titled Acts and Monuments of these Latter and Perilous Days, first published in 1563 and greatly expanded in 1570.

Described as a linen draper of Billericay, then part of the parish of Great Burstead, Thomas Watts had, according to Foxe 'daily expected to be taken by God's adversaries. Accordingly he had assigned his property to his wife and children and donated his stock of cloth to the poor. He was arrested on April 26th, 1555, and brought before Lord Rich at Chelmsford, accused of not attending church, i.e. hearing mass. Interrogated by Sir Anthony Browne, who, with Rich, had been appointed to purge Essex of heretics, as to why he had embraced his heretical views, Watts replied that:

You taught me and no one more than you. For, in King Edward's days in open sessions you said the mass was abominable trumpery, earnestly exhorting that none should believe therein, but that our belief should be only in Christ.



It seems that Watts had also spoken treasonable words against the Queen's husband, King Philip. Unable to persuade Thomas Watts to recant, he was sent to Bishop Bonner, 'the bloody bishop, ...' Essex was then within the diocese of London and Edmund Bonner was its bishop, first under Henry VIII and again under Mary. He remained staunchly Catholic during the reigns of Edward VI and Elizabeth. Although usually depicted as sadistic and merciless, it is worth noting that even Foxe acknowledges that Bonner made several attempts to persuade Watts (and others) to recant, 'gave him several hearings, and, as usual, many arguments with much entreaty, ... but his preaching availed not, and he resorted to his last revenge – that of condemnation.' 'I am weary to live in such idolatry as you would have me live in,' Watts is alleged to have said and signed the confession of heresy.

Edmund Bonner (c. 1500 – 5th September 1569) was Bishop of London from 1539 to 1549 and again from 1553 to 1559. He became notorious as "Bloody Bonner" for his role in the persecution of heretics under the Catholic government of Mary I of England, and ended his life as a prisoner under Queen Elizabeth I.

Faced by his refusal, Bishop Bonner had little choice but to consign Thomas Watts to the secular arm, the Church not being allowed to take life, to suffer the penalty prescribed by the Statute De Heretico Comburando (Concerning the Burning of Heretics) of 1401, originally intended to deal with Lollards.

Returned from the Bishop of London's prison to Chelmsford, Thomas Watts was lodged at 'Mr Scott's, an inn in Chelmsford where were Mr Haukes and the rest that came down to their burning, who all prayed together.' Watts then withdrew to pray by himself, after which he met his wife and children for the last time, exhorting them to have no regrets but to glory in the sacrifice he was making for the sake of Jesus. So powerful were his words that, it is said, two of his children offered to go to the stake with him. At the stake, after he had kissed it, he called out to Lord Rich, who was supervising the execution: "beware, for you do against your own conscience herein, and without you repent, the Lord will revenge it." 'Thus did this good martyr offer his body to the fire, in defence of the true gospel of the Saviour.'

Troubles for Protestants.

After the accession of Queen Mary I to the English throne in 1553, and her repeal of all religious legislation passed under Edward VI, Protestants faced a choice: exile, reconciliation/conversion, or punishment.. Mary had some 284 Protestants burned at the stake (including 56 women). Thirty others died in prison. While the so-called "Marian Persecutions" began with four clergymen, relics of Edwardian England's Protestantism, Foxe's Book of Martyrs offers an account of the executions, which branched well beyond the anticipated targets – high-level clergy. Tradesmen were also burned, as well as married men and women, sometimes in unison, "youths" and at least one couple was burned alive with their daughter.

The English Inquisition and the Judicial process

However bloody the end, the trials of Protestant heretics were judicial affairs, presided by Bishops (most notably Bishop Bonner) adhering to a strict legal protocol under the privy council, with Parliament's blessing. Because of her controversial accession, Mary had difficulty forming an efficient Privy Council, which eventually numbered over forty and never worked as a source of political advice, though it effectively pursued police work and enforcement of religious uniformity. During the session that restored the realm to "papal obedience" parliament reinstated the heresy laws. From 20th January 1555, England could legally punish those judged guilty of heresy against the Catholic faith. Thus it became a matter of establishing the guilt or innocence of an accused heretic in open court – a process which the lay authorities employed to reclaim "straying sheep" and to set a precedent for authentic Catholic teaching. If found guilty, the accused were first excommunicated, then handed over to the secular authorities for execution. The official records of the trials are limited to formal accusations, sentences, and so forth; the documents to which historians look for context and detail are those written by the accused or their supporters.

Cathedrals in Operation.

England

Canterbury Cathedral c.600 AD
 Carlisle Cathedral (in various forms) 1092 AD
 Chester Cathedral (in various forms) 875 AD
 Chichester Cathedral 1080 AD
 Durham Cathedral 997 AD
 Ely Cathedral 1109 AD
 Exeter Cathedral 1050 AD
 Gloucester Cathedral 1541 AD
 Hereford Cathedral 676 AD
 Lichfield Cathedral 669-803, 1048 AD
 Lincoln Cathedral 1070 AD
 Norwich Cathedral 1094 AD
 Oxford Cathedral (in various forms) 727 AD
 Rochester Cathedral (in various forms) 604 AD
 Salisbury Cathedral 1227 AD
 Southwark Cathedral (in various forms) 1106 AD
 Wells Cathedral 1239 AD
 Westminster Abbey (The Collegiate Church of St Peter at Westminster) 1080 AD
 Winchester Cathedral 650 AD
 Worcester Cathedral 743 AD
 York Minster 300 AD

Wales

Bangor Cathedral - Church of St Deiniol, (in various forms) 1092 AD
 Brecon Cathedral - Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist, (in various forms) 1093/1110-1538 AD
 Llandaff Cathedral - Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Paul (in various forms) 550 AD
 St Asaph Cathedral (in various forms) 553 AD
 St Davids Cathedral (in various forms) 580 AD

The Marian Martyrs

The following is not a complete list:

February 1555

John Rogers (c.1500–1555), preacher, biblical translator, lecturer at St. Paul's Cathedral (martyr) – burned at Smithfield, 4th February 1555.

Lawrence Saunders, (martyr) preacher, rector of London church of All Hallows – burned at Coventry, Warwickshire 8th February 1555.

John Hooper, King Edward-era bishop of Gloucester and Worcester (martyr) – burned in Gloucester, 9th February 1555.

Rowland Taylor, rector of Hadleigh in Suffolk (martyr) – burned at Aldham Common, Nr Hadleigh, Suffolk, 9th February 1555.

March 1555

Thomas Tomkins, Weaver from Shoreditch burnt 16th March, Smithfield, London

Thomas Causton, Protestant Gentleman from Horndon on the Hill, burnt 26th March Rayleigh, Essex

Thomas Higbed, Gentleman from Horndon on the Hill, burnt 26th March at Horndon on the Hill, Essex.

William Hunter, Apprentice from Coleman Street London, burnt 27th March, Brentwood, Essex.

Stephen Knight, Barber from Maldon, burnt 28th March at Maldon, Essex.

William Pigot, Butcher, burnt 28th March at Braintree, Essex.

John Laurence, Clergyman and Blackfriar from Sudbury, burnt 29th March at Colchester, Essex.

Robert Ferrar, Bishop of St. David's Pembrokeshire, burnt 30th March, Carmarthen Wales.

Rawlins White, burnt 30th March, Cardiff.

April 1555

George Marsh, Clergyman to Dean of Lancashire, burnt 24th April, Boughton, Chester.

John Schofield, burnt 24th April, Chester.

William Flower, Surgeon, and Teacher from Lambeth London, burnt 24th April, Westminster.

May 1555

John Cardmaker, Clergyman – Prebendary of Wells Cathedral, burnt 30th May, Smithfield London.

John Warne, Upholsterer of Walbrook London, burnt 30th May, Smithfield London.

John Simson Husbandman of Wigborough, burnt 30th May, Rochford Essex.

John Ardeley Husbandman of Wigborough, burnt 30th May, Rayleigh Essex.

June 1555

Thomas Haukes (Hawkes) Gentleman (Tried 8th February, Condemned 10th February, Burnt 10th June, Coggeshall Essex.

Thomas Watts, Linen Draper of Billericay, burnt 10th June, Chelmsford Essex.

Nicholas Chamberlain, Weaver of Coggeshall, burnt 14th June, Colchester Essex.

Thomas Ormond/Osmande, Fuller of Coggeshall, burnt 15th June 1555, Manningtree, Buried in St. Michaels & All Angels Colchester Essex. Marble placed in 1748

William Bamford (or Butler), Weaver of Coggeshall, burnt 15th June, Harwich Essex.

John Ardite, burnt (day unknown) June, Location unknown

... Butter, burnt (day unknown) June, Location unknown

July 1555

John Bradford Clergyman – Prebendary of St. Pauls Cathedral London, burnt 12th July, Smithfield, London

John Leaf/Jhon Least, Apprentice Tallow Chandler Christ Church Greyfriars born Kirby Moorside Yorkshire, burnt 12th July, Smithfield London.

John Polley, burnt (day unknown) July, Location unknown

William Ailewarde (of Reading), Died in prison (day unknown) July, Location unknown

George Catmer (of Hythe), burnt 12 July, Canterbury

Robert Streater (of Hythe), burnt 12 July, Canterbury

Anthony Burward (of Calete), burnt 12 July, Canterbury
 George Brodbridge (of Bromfield), burnt 12 July, Canterbury
 James Tutty/Tuttey (of Brenchley), burnt 12 July, Canterbury.
 ... Everson, burnt (day unknown) July, Location unknown

The Canterbury Martyrs

John Bland, Clergyman Vicar of Rolvenden Kent, burnt 12th July, Canterbury.
 John Frankesh, Parson of Adisham Kent burnt 17th July, Canterbury
 Nicholas Shetterden, burnt 17 July, Canterbury
 Humphrey Middleton of Ashford, burnt 17th July, Canterbury.
 Christopher Wade, Linen Weaver, burnt 17th July, Dartford, Kent
 Margaret (or Margery) Polley of Pepeling Calais, Widow, burnt 17th July, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent
 Nicholas Hall Bricklayer of Dartford), burnt 19th July at Rochester, Kent
 Deryk/Dirick Carver/Dirick Harman (martyr), Beer Brewer, burnt 22nd July, Lewes, East Sussex.
 John Launder Husbandman, (of Godstone, Surrey) (martyr), burnt 23rd July, at Stenning, West Sussex.
 Thomas Everson Carpenter of Godstone Surrey, burnt 23rd July Steyning West Sussex.
 Richard Hook (Lame man) burnt 23rd July Chichester West Sussex.

August 1555

James Abbess Shoemaker of Stoke-by-Nayland Essex burnt 2nd August Thetford Norfolk.
 John Denley of Maidstone Gentleman (martyr) burnt 8th August, Uxbridge Middlesex.
 Robert Smith Clerk at the College at Windsor Berkshire, burnt 8th August, Uxbridge Middlesex one of the thirty-one victims of Michael Dunning, the "bloody chancellor" of Norwich from 1555 to 1558.
 Agnes Prest of Launceston, Cornwall, burnt 15th August at Southernhay, Exeter
 Elizabeth Warne/Warren, burnt 23rd August at Stratford in Essex.
 William Coker of Cranbrook Kent, burnt 23rd August, Canterbury Kent.
 William Hopper of Cranbrook Kent, burnt 23rd August, Canterbury Kent.
 Henry Laurence, burnt 23rd August, Canterbury Kent.
 Richard Collier/Colliar, burnt 23rd August, Canterbury Kent.
 Richard Wright of Ashford Kent, burnt 23rd August, Canterbury Kent.
 William Stere of Ashford Kent, burnt 23rd August, Canterbury Kent.
 George Tankerfield of London born in York, burnt 26th August at St Albans Hertfordshire.
 Patrick Pakingham/Pachingham, burnt 28th August, Uxbridge Middlesex.
 Stephen Harwood of Ware Hertfordshire, burnt 30th August at Stratford in Essex.
 John Newman of Maidstone Kent a Pewterer, burnt 31st August, Saffron Walden Essex.
 Richard Hook, burnt unknown date in August, Chichester
 Widow Warren, possibly drowned, August, Stratford, London
 Robert Samuel of Barfold Suffolk, Clergyman Minister at Barfold, burnt 31st August at Thetford, Norfolk
 Thomas Fust/Fusse, Hosier, burnt 31st August 1555 in the environs of London or Ware Hertfordshire.
 William Hale/Hailes of Thorpe Essex, burnt 31st August, in the environs of Barnet, London

September 1555

Roger Coe/Coo/Corier of Melford Suffolk, a Shearman, burnt date September at Yoxford, Suffolk, Uxbridge
 William Allen Labourer of Somerton, burnt date unknown September at Thetford, Norfolk.
 Thomas Cob a Butcher of Haverhill Suffolk, burnt September at Thetford, Norfolk.
 Robert Streater of Hythe Kent, burnt 6th September, Canterbury Kent.
 Anthony Burward of Calete possibly Calais, burnt 6th September Canterbury Kent.
 George Brodbridge (or Bradbridge) of Bromfield Kent, burnt 6th September Canterbury Kent.
 James Tutty (or Tuttey) of Benchley Kent, burnt 6th September Canterbury Kent.
 Thomas Hayward (martyr), burnt mid-September at Litchfield Staffordshire.
 John Goreway (martyr), burnt mid-September at Litchfield Staffordshire.
 Robert Glover, Gentleman of Mancetter Warwickshire, burnt 14th September at Coventry Warwickshire.
 Cornelius Bongey (or Bungey) a Capper, burnt 20th September at Coventry Warwickshire.

George Catmer (or Painter) of Hythe Kent, burnt 6th September, Canterbury Kent.
 Jhon Lesse, died in Newgate Prison (day unknown) September, London.
 Richard Smith, died in prison (day unknown) September, Lowlar's Tower/Lollard's Tower, Lambeth Palace, London.
 ... Tingle, died in Newgate Prison (day unknown) September, Location unknown
 ... Androwes, died in prison (day unknown) September, Location unknown
 ... Kyng, died in prison (day unknown) September, Location unknown

October 1555

Nicholas Ridley of Fulham Palace, Clergyman – Bishop of London under Edward VI, burnt 16th October outside Balliol College, Oxford.
 Hugh Latimer/Latyer of Baxterley Warwickshire, burnt 16th October outside Balliol College, Oxford.
 William Wolsey, Constable of Upwell Norfolk, one of the Wisbech Martyrs, burnt 16th October on the Cathedral Green, Ely Cambridgeshire.
 Robert Pygot/Pigot (martyr) a Painter of Wisbech, burnt 16th October on the Cathedral Green, Ely Cambridgeshire.

November 1555

Christopher Browne, burnt 15th November, Canterbury Kent.
 George Roper, burnt 30th November, Canterbury Kent.
 John Webbe a Gentleman, burnt 30th November, Canterbury Kent.
 Gregory Parke/Paynter, burnt 30th November, Canterbury Kent.

December 1555.

Thomas Whittle (or Whitewell) of Essex, Clergyman Minister, burnt 18th December at Smithfield London.
 ... Gore, died in prison (day unknown) December, Location unknown
 ... Wiseman, died in prison (day unknown) December, Lowlar's Tower/Lollard's Tower, Lambeth Palace, London
 John Philpot of Winchester Hampshire, burnt 18th December, Smithfield London.
 Unknown Dates and Details of Recorded Burnings in 1555.
 Thomas Iverson, burnt ...1555, possibly in Chichester
 ... Bucer, burnt ...1555/6, possibly in Cambridge
 ... Fagius, burnt ...1555/6, possibly in Cambridge.

January 1556

A number of Kentish people of Ashford Area, burnt 16th January at Ashford, Kent
 John Tudson of St. Mary Botolph Parish born Ipswich Suffolk, burnt 27th January at Smithfield, London.
 Bartholomew Green of Temple London, Born Basinghall London, Gentleman and Lawyer, burnt 27 January 1556 Smithfield London.
 John Went of Langham, Essex, burnt 27th January at Smithfield, London
 Joan Lushford/Jone Lashforde a Maid in Thames Street London, burnt 27th January at Smithfield, London
 Thomas Brown of St. Brides Parish London, born Histon, Nr Cambridge, burnt 27th January at Smithfield, London.
 John Hunt (martyr), burnt 27th January at Smithfield, London
 Isobella Forster/Annis Foster born in Greystoke Cumberland , burnt 27th January at Smithfield, London
 Joan Warne, burnt 27 January at Smithfield, London
 ... Winter, burnt (day unknown) January, Smithfield, London
 John Lomas/Jhon Lowmas of Tenterden Kent, burnt 31st January at Wincheap, Canterbury
 Annes Snoth/Annis Snod/(Agnes Smith?)- of Smarden Kent, but she maybe a possible additional individual), burnt 31 January at Wincheap, Canterbury.
 Anne Wright/Albright, burnt 31 January at Wincheap, Canterbury
 Joan Sole/Jone Soale of Horton Kent, burnt 31st January at Wincheap, Canterbury
 Joan Catmer, burnt 31 January at Wincheap, Canterbury Kent.

February 1556

Agnes Potten (wife of Robert Potten), burnt 19th February, Ipswich, Cornhill.

Joan Trunchfield (wife of Michael Trunchfield Shoemaker), burnt 19th February, Ipswich, Cornhill.

March 1556

Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, burnt 21st March, outside Balliol College, Oxford.

William Coberly, a Tailor of Wiltshire, burnt 24th March outside Salisbury Wiltshire.

John Maundrel, Husbandman, of Beckhampton Wiltshire, burnt 24th March outside Salisbury Wiltshire.

John Spicer (or Spencer) of Winston Suffolk, Freemason Bricklayer, burnt 24th March outside Salisbury Wiltshire.

April 1556

John Harpole, of Rochester Kent, burnt 1st April of St Nicholas Parish, at Rochester, Kent.

Joan Beach, Widow of Tonbridge Wells), burnt 1st April at Rochester, Kent.

John Hullier/Hulliarde, of Babraham Cambridgeshire a Clergyman Curate, burnt 16th April, Cambridge

Robert Drake of Thundersley Essex, Clergyman Minister of Thundersley Essex, burnt 24th April, Smithfield London.

William Tyms/Timmes Clergyman Curate, of Hockley Essex, burnt 24th April, Smithfield, London.

Richard Spurge of Bocking Essex, a Shearman, burnt 24th April, Smithfield London.

Thomas Spurge of Bocking Essex, burnt 24th April, Smithfield London.

John Cavel/Cauell of Bocking Essex, burnt 24th April, Smithfield London.

George Ambrose of Bocking Essex, burnt 24th April, Smithfield, London.

Christopher Lister a Husbandman of Dagenham Essex, burnt 28th April Colchester Essex.

Richard Nicol a Weaver, of Colchester Essex, burnt 28th April, Colchester Essex.

John Mace, Apothecary of Colchester Essex, burnt 28th April, Colchester Essex.

John Hammond a Tanner of Colchester Essex, burnt 28th April Colchester Essex.

Simon Joyne a Sawyer, burnt 28 April Colchester Essex.

John Spencer a Weaver of Colchester Essex burnt 28th April Colchester Essex.

Little-Grace ('Grace', maybe a separate individual), burnt (date unknown) April, Location Unknown, London.

May 1556

Hugh Laverock/Lauarocke, A Lame Man formerly a Painter, of Barking Essex, burnt 15th May at Stratford in Essex.

John Apprice/Aprice (a blind man), burnt 15th May at Stratford-Atte-Bow or Stratford in Essex.

Thomas Drowry a Blind Boy, burnt 15th May Gloucester.

Thomas Croker, a Bricklayer, burnt 15th May Gloucester.

Thomas Spicer of Beccles, burnt there 21st May.

John Deny (possible a female Joan/Jone) of Beccles, burnt there 21 ;May

Edmund Poole of Beccles, burnt there 21 May Beccles Suffolk.

Katherine Hut, a Widow of Bocking Essex. A Maid, burnt 16th May Smithfield London.

Elizabeth Thackvel of Great Burstead Essex. A Maid, burnt 16th May at Smithfield London.

Joan/Jone Horns of Billericay Essex. A Maid, burnt 16th May Smithfield London.

Thomas Spicer a Labourer of Winston Suffolk, burnt 21 May Beccles Suffolk.

John or Joan Denny of Beccles Suffolk, burnt 21st May at Beccles Suffolk.

Edmund Poole of Beccles Suffolk, burnt 21 May at Beccles Suffolk.

Margaret Eliot, died in prison (date unknown) May, Location Unknown.

William Sleeke, died in prison (date unknown) May, Location Unknown.

June 1556

Thomas Harland a Carpenter of Woodmancote Sussex, burnt 6th June at Lewes Sussex.

Thomas Reed of Ardingly, burnt about 20th June, Lewes Sussex.

John Oswald a Husbandman of Woodmancote, burnt 6th June, Lewes Sussex.

Thomas Avington of Ardingly, burnt about 20th June, Lewes Sussex.
 Adam Forster of Mendlesham Suffolk a Husbandman, burnt 17th June at Bury St. Edmunds.
 Robert Lawson a Linen Weaver of Mendlesham Suffolk burnt 17th June at Bury St. Edmunds.
 Thomas Wood a Clergyman Pastor, burnt 20th June at Lewes Sussex.
 Thomas Milles of Hellingly Sussex burnt 20th June at Lewes Sussex.
 Thomas Moor a Servant and Husbandman burnt 26th June at Leicester.
 ... Millwright, burnt about 20th June, Lewes Sussex.
 ... Evington, burnt about 20th June, Lewes Sussex.
 William Adheral, burnt about 20th June, Lewes Sussex.

The Stratford Martyrs, 11 men and 2 women.

Henry Adlington or Addlinton a Sawyer from Grinstead Sussex, burnt 27th June, Stratford-Atte-Bow.
 Lawrence/Laurence Parnam a Smith from Hoddesdon Hertfordshire, burnt 27th June, Stratford-Atte-Bow.
 Henry Wye a Brewer from Stanford le Hope Essex, burnt about 27th June, Stratford-Atte-Bow.
 William Hallywell/Holywell a Smith from Waltham Holy Cross Essex, burnt about 27th June, Stratford-Atte-Bow.
 Thomas Bowyer/Bowier a Weaver from Dunmow Essex, burnt about 27th June, Stratford-Atte-Bow.
 George Searle a Tailor from White Notley Essex, burnt about 27th June, Stratford-Atte-Bow.
 Edmond Hurst a Labourer from St. James Parish Colchester, burnt about 27th June, Stratford-Atte-Bow.
 Lyon or Lion Cawch a Merchant Broker from the City of London, burnt 27th June, Stratford-Atte-Bow
 Ralph Jackson a Serving Man from Chipping Ongar Essex, burnt 27th June, Stratford-Atte-Bow
 John Derifall or Dorifall of Rettendon Essex, burnt 27th June, Stratford-Atte-Bow.
 John Routh or Roth of Wickes (Wix) in Essex, burnt 27th June, Stratford-Atte-Bow.
 Elizabeth Pepper of St. James Parish Colchester, burnt 27th June, Stratford-Atte-Bow.
 Agnes George of West Barefold , wife of Richard George Husbandman, burnt 27th June, Stratford-Atte-Bow.
 Roger Bernard a Labourer of Framsdon Suffolk, burnt 30th June, Bury St. Edmunds.
 Thomas Parret, died in prison June, Location Unknown
 Martyne Hunte, death by unknown deed, June, 'King's Bench' Temple, London
 'A young man of Leicester'-Unnamed but mentioned, death by unknown deed, June Location Unknown
 John Clemente, death by unknown deed, June, Location Unknown
 ... Careless, death by unknown deed, June, Location Unknown
 N. Ambrose, 16th June, died by unknown deed. Location Unknown
 John Morris, 16th June, died by unknown deed. Location Unknown
 Adam Forster, 17th June, died by unknown deed. Location Unknown
 Robert Lawson, 17th June, died by unknown deed. Location Unknown.

July 1556.

Thomas Askin/Askue, burnt 15th July, 'The Sand-pits' Newbury Berkshire.
 John Guin/Jhon Gwin a Shoemaker, burnt 15th July, 'The Sand-pits', Newbury Berkshire.
 Julians Palmer a Schoolmaster of Reading Berkshire burnt 15th July at The Sand Pits Newbury Berkshire.

The Guernsey Martyrs

(Three women and one unborn male foetus)
 Perotine Massey (pregnant with male foetus), burnt 18th July in St Peter Port on Guernsey in the Channel Islands. She was the wife of Norman Massey a Calvinist Minister.
 Catherine Cauches (sometimes spelt Katherine Cawches, burnt 18th July in St Peter Port on Guernsey in the Channel Islands.
 Guillemine Gilbert, burnt 18th July in St Peter Port on Guernsey in the Channel Islands.
 John Forman of East Grinstead, burnt 18th July, West Grinstead, West Sussex.
 Anne Tree of West Hoathly, burnt 18th July, West Grinstead, West Sussex.
 Thomas Dungate of East Grinstead, burnt 18th July, West Grinstead, West Sussex.

August 1556.

Joan Waste of All Hallows Derbyshire, a Blind woman, burnt 1st August, burnt at Derby.

September 1556.

Edward Sharp a Glover, burnt early September Bristol Gloucestershire.

John Kurde of Syresham Northamptonshire a Shoemaker, burnt 20th September at Northampton.

Thomas Ravensdale, burnt 22nd September possibly 1557 Mayfield Sussex.

John Noyes a Shoemaker of Laxfield Sussex, burnt 22nd September possibly 1557.

Nicholas Holden a Weaver from Withyham Sussex, burnt 24th September possibly 1557.

October 1556.

Rose Pencell, burnt 17th October Bristol Gloucestershire.

William Shapton a Weaver, burnt 17th October at Bristol Gloucestershire.

January 1557

Stephen Kempe of Northgate Kent, burnt 15th January, Canterbury.

William Waterer of Biddenden Kent, burnt 15th January, Canterbury.

William Prowting of Thurnham Kent, burnt 15th January, Canterbury.

William Lowick of Cranbrooke Kent, burnt 15th January, Canterbury.

Thomas Hudson of Selling Kent, burnt 15th January, Canterbury.

William Hay of Hythe Kent, burnt 15th January, Canterbury.

Thomas Stephens of Biddenden Kent, burnt 16th January, Wye, Ashford, Kent.

John Phillpott of Tenterden Kent, burnt 16th January, Wye, Ashford, Kent

Nicholas Final of Tenterden Kent, burnt 16th January, Ashford, Kent

Matthew Bradbridge of Tenterden Kent, burnt 16th January, Ashford, Kent

March**April**

Thomas Loseby (possibly Jhon Lothesby), burnt 12th April, Smithfield London.

Henry Ramsey, burnt 12 April, Smithfield, London

Thomas Thyrtell or Sturtle, burnt 12th April, Smithfield London.

Margaret Hyde (possibly Annis Hide), burnt 12th April, Smithfield London.

Agnes Stanley/Stanye, burnt 12th April, Smithfield London.

May 1557

William Morant, burnt at end of May, St. George's Field, Southwark.

Stephen Gratwick or Grathwick, burnt at end of May, St. George's Field, Southwark

Thomas King, burnt at end of May, St. George's Field, Southwark.

Richard Sharpe a weaver, burnt 7 May, Cotham, Bristol Gloucestershire.

June 1557

Edmund Allin/Allen a Miller of Maplehurst Mill, Frittenden, burnt 18th June Maidstone Kent.

Katherine Allin/Allen (Wife), of Maplehurst Mill, Frittenden, burnt 18th June Maidstone Kent.

Joan/Jone Bradbridge Widow of Martin Bradbridge of Staplehurst Kent, burnt 19th June Maidstone Kent.

Walter Appleby, burnt 18th June Maidstone Kent.

Petronil Appleby (wife), burnt 18th June Maidstone Kent.

Joan/Jone Manning, burnt 19th June Maidstone Kent.

Elizabeth (surname possibly 'Lewis')(blind maid), burnt 19th June Maidstone Kent.

John Fishcock/Jhon Fiscoke, burnt 19th or 21st June, Canterbury Kent.

Nicholas White, burnt 19th or 21st June, Canterbury Kent.

Nicholas Pardue/Perdue, burnt 19th or 21st June, Canterbury Kent.

Barbara Final, burnt 19th June, Canterbury Kent.

Mistress Wilson (possibly also referred to as 'Wilson's Wife'), burnt 19th or 22nd June, Canterbury Kent.

Alice Benden,(possibly also referred to as 'Benson's Wife' burnt 19th June, Canterbury Kent.

Richard Woodman an Iron-Maker of Warbleton, burnt 22nd or 23rd June, Lewes Sussex.

George Stevens (martyr) of Warbleton, burnt about 22nd or 25th June, Lewes Sussex.
 William Mainard of Mayfield, burnt about 22nd or 25th June, Lewes Sussex.
 Thomasina Wood Maid Servant of William Mainard of Mayfield, burnt 22nd or 26th June, Lewes Sussex.
 Marcery/Margery/Margaret Morris of Heathfield, burnt about 22nd or 26th June, Lewes Sussex.
 James Morris (martyr) - son of Marcery of Heathfield, burnt about 22nd June, Lewes Sussex.
 Thomas Wood or Hood (martyr) of Lewes, burnt about 20–22 June, Lewes Sussex.
 Thomas Myles/Miles of Hellingly, burnt about 20–22 June, Lewes Sussex.
 Alexander Hosman of Mayfield, burnt about 22nd or 25th June, Lewes Sussex.
 Denis Burcis of Buxted, burnt about 22nd June, Lewes Sussex.
 Ann Ashdown/Ashdon's (possibly also referred to as 'Ashdon's Wife') of Rotherfield, burnt about 22nd June, Lewes Sussex.
 Mary Groves/Gloue's (possibly also referred to as 'Gloue's Wife') of Lewes, burnt about 22 June, Lewes.

July 1557

Simon Miller of Lynn Norfolk, burnt 13th July, Norwich Norfolk.
 Elizabeth Cooper, wife of a Pewterer of St. Andrews Church Norwich, burnt 13th July Norwich.
 George Egles/Eagles, hung, drawn & quartered, Unknown day, July or August, Chelmsford Essex.

August 1557

The Colchester Martyrs

William Purchase a Glazier of St/ Nicholas Parish Colchester, burnt 2nd August, Colchester Essex.
 William Purchase or Purcas of Bocking Essex a Fuller, burnt 2nd August at Colchester Essex.
 Thomas Benhote or Benold a Tallow Chandler of Colchester, burnt 2nd August, Colchester Essex.
 Agnes Silverside a Widow, burnt 2nd August, Colchester Essex.
 Helen Ewring of Colchester, burnt 2nd August, Colchester Essex.
 Elizabeth Folk a Young Maiden Servant at Colchester, burnt 2nd August, Colchester Essex.
 William Munt of Much (Magna) Bentley, burnt 2nd August, Colchester Essex.
 Alice Munt of Much (Magna) Great Bentley, burnt 2nd August, Colchester Essex.
 Rose Allen daughter of Alice Munt, burnt 2nd August, Colchester Essex.
 John Johnson of Thorpe Essex, burnt 2nd August, Colchester Essex.
 Richard Crashfield,(of Wymondham) burnt 5th August, Norwich, Norfolk.

Father Fruier burnt August Rochester Kent.
 Sister of George Eagles burnt August Rochester Kent.
 Robert Stevenson burnt August Rochester Kent.
 Agnes Prest of Boyton Cornwall a Spinner, burnt 15th August Southernhay Exeter Devon.
 Thomas Benion a Weaver, burnt 27 August at Bristol Gloucestershire.

September 1557.

Joyce Bowes or Lewis of Mancetter Warwickshire a Gentlewoman, burnt date unknown in September, Litchfield Staffordshire.
 Ralph Allerton of Much Bentley Essex. burnt 17th September, Islington Middlesex.
 Agnes Bongeor (also known as Bowmers wife – Richard Bongeor) burnt 17th September Colchester.
 Margaret Thurston/Widow Thurston, burnt 17th September (or unknown date July), Colchester Essex.
 Richard Roth/Rooth, burnt 17th September, Islington Middlesex.
 James Austoo/Auscoo, burnt 17th September, Islington Middlesex.
 Margery Austoo/Auscoo, burnt 17th September, Islington Middlesex
 Cicely Ormes, wife of Edmund Ormes a Worstead Weaver of St. Edmunds Parish Norwich, burnt 23rd September, Norwich Norfolk.

November 1557

John Halingdale/Hollingday a Carpenter, burnt 18th November/or day unknown October, Smithfield London.

William Sparrow, burnt, 18th November/or day unknown October, Smithfield
 Richard Gibson, a Gentleman, burnt 18th November/or day unknown October, Smithfield London.
 Thomas Spurdance, Servant of the Queen, burnt, day unknown in November, Bury St Edmunds

December 1557

Joyce Lewis of Mancetter, burnt at Lichfield on 18 December.
 John Rough/Jhon Roughe, a Clergyman Minister at Islington, burnt 22nd December, Smithfield, London.
 Margaret Maring/Mering, burnt 22nd December, Smithfield London.

March 1558

Cuthbert Symson/Symion, of Islington Clergyman Deacon, burnt 28th March Smithfield London.
 Hugh Foxe a Hosier, died 28th March at Smithfield London.
 John Devinish/Jhon Denneshe, a Wool Winder, burnt 28th March at Smithfield London.

April 1558

Walter Milne or Mill or Mylin. Age 82, burnt ...April, Deans Court, St Andrews
 William Nichol, burnt 9th April, SM9515 Haverfordwest/Hwlffordd, Pembrokeshire Wales.

May 1558

William Carman (brother of Thomas Carman burnt 19th May 1558) burnt day and month unknown 1557
 William Seaman/Symon, a Husbandman, burnt 19th May at Norwich, Norfolk
 Thomas Carman (brother of Willian Carman burnt 19th May at Norwich, Norfolk.
 Thomas Hudson, a Glover of Aylsham Norfolk, burnt 19th May at Norwich, Norfolk.
 William Harris, burnt 26th May at Colchester Essex.
 Richard Day, burnt 26th May at Colchester Essex.
 Christian George (female), burnt 26th May at Colchester Essex.

June 1558

'The Islington Martyrs'

Roger Holland, a Merchant Tailor St. Johns Wood, burnt 27th June at Smithfield London.
 Henry Pond, burnt 27th June at Smithfield London.
 Reinald Estalnd, burnt 27th June at Smithfield London.
 Robert Southain/Southam, burnt 27th June at Smithfield London.
 Matthew Ricarby/Ricarbie, burnt 27th June at Smithfield London.
 John Floyd/Flood, burnt 27th June at Smithfield London.
 John Holiday/Hollyday, burnt 27th June at Smithfield London.
 Thomas Tyler, died in Prison June at Smithfield London.
 Matthew Withers, died in Prison at Smithfield London.

July 1558

Sir Richard Yeoman/Yeman,(Rector) of Hadleigh Suffolk, burnt 10th July at Norwich, Norfolk
 Robert Milles, burnt 14th July at Brentford, Middlesex (possibly Bury St. Edmunds).
 Stephen Cotton, burnt 14th July at Brentford, Middlesex.
 John Slade, burnt 14th July at Brentford, Middlesex.
 Robert Dynes, burnt 14th July at Brentford, Middlesex.
 William Pikas/Pikes/Peckes, burnt 14th July at Brentford, Middlesex.
 Stephen Wight/Wright, burnt 14th July at Brentford, Middlesex.
 Thomas Benbrike/Benbridge, burnt unknown day in July at Winchester Hampshire.
 John Cooke a Sawyer, burnt 25th July at Bury St. Edmunds.
 Alexander Lane a Wheelwright, burnt 25th July at Bury St. Edmunds.
 James Ashley a Bachelor, burnt 25th July at Bury St. Edmunds.

September 1558

John (or Richard) Snell of Bedale Yorkshire, burnt 9th September Richmond Yorkshire.

November 1558

Alexander Gooch/Geche a Weaver of Melton, Suffolk, burnt 4th November, Ipswich Cornhill
 Elizabeth Launson, burnt 4th November, Ipswich Cornhill
 Alice Driver of Grundisburgh burnt 4th November, Ipswich Cornhill
 Philip Humphrey/Philip Humfrey, burnt November, Bury St Edmunds
 John. David/Jhon Dauy, burnt November, Bury St Edmunds.
 H. David (brother of John David) burnt November, Bury St Edmunds.
 John Corneford (of Wrotham), burnt 15 November, Canterbury
 Christopher Brown, of Maidstone Kent burnt 15th November, Canterbury Kent.
 John Herst (of Ashford), burnt 15th November, Canterbury Kent.
 Alice Snoth, burnt 15th November, Canterbury Kent.
 Katherine Knight/Tynley, an old woman, burnt 15th November, Canterbury.

Mary 1st, died on 17th November 1558. Many subsequent burnings after this date would have been set in motion before her death, but they are not included here without evidence of the trial being undertaken during Mary 1st reign. If a trial started during Mary 1st reign but the judgement was not delivered until after her death, this will be recorded and noted as such.

Radical Protestants executed under Elizabeth I.

Jan Wielmacker (A Dutchman of a Conventicle in Aldgate London) burnt 22 July 1575 Smithfield London.
 Hendrik Ter Woort (A Dutchman of a Conventicle in Aldgate London) burnt 22nd July 1575 Smithfield.
 Matthew Hamon a Ploughwright of Hethersett Norfolk 20th May 1579 Norwich Castle.
 John Lewes executed on 18 September 1583 Norwich Norfolk.
 Peter Cole a Tanner of Ipswich Suffolk executed 1587 Norwich Norfolk.
 Francis Kett a Clergyman and Physician of Wymondham Norfolk, 14 January 1587 at Norwich.
 John Greenwood Puritan Separatist of London, 6th April 1593 in London.
 Henry Barrow a Lawyer Separatist of London, 6th April 1593 in London.
 John Penry a Writer and Preacher of Llangammarch Powys arrested in Ratcliff London, 29th May 1593 at St. Thomas a Watering, Old Kent Road London.

Radical Protestants executed under James I.

Bartholomew Legate a Cloth Trader form Hornchurch Essex 18th March 1612 at Smithfield London.
 Edward Wightman a Mercer and Minister of Burton on Trent Staffordshire, 11th April 1612 Lichfield Staffordshire.

Also mentioned by Foxe:

Anne Bolton (burnt at Ipswich)
 John Truncheffelde (of St Leonard, Ipswich, condemned to be burnt)
 Michael Truncheffelde (of St Leonard, Ipswich, condemned to be burnt)
 Agnes Wardal (of Ipswich, persecuted but escaped).

Irony of John Rogers's execution.

Before Mary's ascent to the throne, John Foxe, one of the few clerics of his day who was against the burning of even obstinate heretics, had approached John Rogers to intervene on behalf of Joan of Kent, a female Anabaptist who was sentenced with burning in 1550. Rogers, a Protestant preacher, and royal chaplain, refused to help, as he supported the burning of heretics. Rogers claimed that the method of execution was "sufficiently mild" for a crime as grave as heresy. Later, after Mary I came to power and converted England to Catholicism, John Rogers spoke quite vehemently against the new order and was burned as a heretic.

Observations

It can be noted that from 2 August 1556 until 14 January 1557 there seems to be no recorded 'burnings' or martyr deaths. It may be significant that when they recommenced, they did so at Canterbury on 15 January 1557, at the seat of the nations official religious life, with the burning of six individuals. Additionally four other individuals, also in Kent, in two different locations within some 20 miles radius of Canterbury, where also burnt on the following day 16th January 1556.

The broad figure of 300 victims of the Marian Persecutions as listed by Foxe and later by Thomas Brice in his poem, "The Regester" seems to be potentially on the low side. However without a reliable breakdown of the numbers variously executed, recanted, and freed, with those who fled to Protestant Europe, the statement at such high numeric levels is hard to validate. Using statistical variance the lower estimate of 300 executions may extend to some 1472 victims throughout Mary 1st, 64-month reign, equating to some 23 individual executions a month.

Legacy

Throughout the course of the persecutions, Foxe contends that 300 individuals were burned for their faith. However, no complete list of these names has ever been documented. These people are commemorated with an elaborate gothic memorial in Oxford, England. They are known as the "Marian Martyrs".

Posthumous proceedings:

William Tracy of Toddington, Gloucestershire, 'worshipful esquire', exhumed and burnt, 1532.

John Tooley, poulterer, exhumed and burnt, 4 June 1555.

James Trevisam, died 3rd July 1555 and summoned posthumously to appear before the bishop[188]

Catherine, wife of Peter Martyr Vermigli, exhumed 1556, Cambridge.

Martin Bucer, Professor of Divinity, exhumed and burnt 6th February 1557, Cambridge.

Paul Fagius, Lecturer in Hebrew, exhumed and burnt 6 February 1557, Cambridge.

Joan Seaman, early 1558, refused burial at Mendlesham Norfolk.

John Glover, gentleman, 'about the latter end of Queen Mary', ordered to be exhumed.

William Glover, September 1558, refused burial at Wem, Shropshire.

Edward Burton, 15 January 1559, refused burial at Shrewsbury.

Those who died in Prison (cause of death not defined):

Under Henry VIII.

Christopher, a Dutchman from Antwerp, Flanders. 1531 Died in prison at Westminster.

John Porter of Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire and St Sepulchre's, London, a tailor.

Died in Newgate Prison, London. 1542.

Thomas Sommers from London, a Merchant. Died About 1542 in the Tower of London.

Under Mary I.

John Alcock (or Awcock) from Hadleigh, Suffolk, a Shearman. Died 2nd April 1555 in Newgate Prison, London.

William Minge a clergyman – Priest. Died on 2nd July 1555 in Maidstone Prison, Kent.

John Aleworth, died July 1555 in Reading Prison, Berkshire.

... Tingle, Died September 1555 in Newgate Prison, London.

George Kyng (or King) sickened in Lollard's Tower September 1555..

John Lesse Died in Newgate Prison, London September 1555.

John Wade sickened in Lollard's Tower, September 1555.

William Androwes (or Andrew, or Andrews) of Horsley, Essex a Carpenter, died in Newgate Prison, London September 1555.

James Gore, Died in Colchester Prison on 7th December 1555.

William Wiseman a Clothworker Died on 13th December 1555, Lollard's Tower, Lambeth Palace, London.

Margaret Eliot (or Ellis) of Billericay, Essex a Maid, Died May 1556 in Newgate Prison, London.

William Sleeke (or Slech) Died on 31st May 1556 'King's Bench' Southwark, Surrey.

William Adheral a Minister, Died on 24th June 1556.

John Clemente, A Wheelwright, Died 26th June 1556.

Thomas Parret, Died 27th June 1556.

Martyne Hunte, Died 29th June 1556.

John Morris (or Morice). No details.

John Careless of Coventry, Warwickshire, A Weaver, Died 1st July 1556.

William Dangerfield, his wife Joan, and their infant child, all sickened in prison, possibly October 1556 Chichester Castle or Canterbury Castle or Prison.

John Clark, in or after November 1556 at Canterbury Castle, Kent.

Dunston Chittenden, November 1556 Canterbury Castle Kent.

William Foster of Stone, Kent, died in November 1556 at Canterbury Castle Kent.

Alice Potkins of Staplehurst, Kent, died in November 1556 at Canterbury Castle Kent

John Archer of Cranbrook, Kent died in November 1556 at Canterbury Castle Kent

John Thurston, taken at Much (Great) Bentley, Essex, died May 1557 at Colchester Castle, Essex

N. Ambrose died about June 1557 (according to Foxe), or July 1557 (according to Farr) Maidstone Prison, Kent.

John Dale of Hadleigh, Suffolk, a Weaver, died at Bury St Edmunds Prison.

Matthew Withers (or Wythers), died June 1558 Newgate Prison, London.

Thomas Tyler died June 1558 Newgate Prison London.

Compiled by Basildon Borough Heritage Society.

31 October 2024.